November and for second window it would be 15th May of the respective year. The bidding process will be repeated every six months.

(c) and (d). The Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) framework provides for a Unified License covering both conventional and unconventional oil and gas. The contractors would be selected through an open, transparent and competitive bidding process.

Shifting of IOC's Lubrication oil Company to Chennai

437. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IOC's Lubrication Oil Company at Tadepalli in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh is being shifted to Chennai;

(b) whether it is also a fact that undeclared lockout has been declared since more than two months now;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for shifting this company and causing an undeclared lockout;

(d) whether local people, public representatives, State Government have been requesting not to shift the company; and

(e) if so, why IOC has taken a decision to close the company in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has reported that no such decision has been taken till date.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) IOCL has received a letter from a local person and reply in the matter has been sent by IOCL to the said person *vide* their letter dated 21.06.2017.

(e) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Illegal use of chips by petrol pumps in Uttar Pradesh

438. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of petrol theft by petroleum dealers have been found, who have been using some digital chip in petrol vending machines in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported so far;

(c) the details of action taken by Government;

(d) whether it is also a fact that hard and quick action against such dealers have not been taken due to some reasons; and

(e) whether Government proposes to check all petrol pumps in the country to ensure that they are not cheating the customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that so far, 93 retail outlet dealerships in Uttar Pradesh have been found indulging in malpractices/irregularities pertaining to manipulation of fuel deliveries to customers. OMCs have informed that action has been taken as per provisions of the agreement subsisting between OMC and RO dealerships and 44 dealerships have been terminated so far.

(d) The Government has directed OMCs that there should be absolute zero tolerance in cases of malpractices including systematic short selling to the consumers. This Ministry has been monitoring the joint operation across the country. The OMCs have also been instructed to take strict action against the Retail Outlets, resorting to such malpractices including exploring the option of terminating the contract.

(e) To ensure correct quantity is delivered to consumers, Chief Secretaries/ Administrator of States/UTs have been advised to conduct a Special Drive/surprise inspections across the respective State/UT and set up a number of special teams consisting of officials from STF, Legal Metrology, Civil Supplies and OMCs.

Status of LNG pipeline in Kerala

439. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of laying the LNG pipeline in Kerala;

(b) whether Government has noticed the agitation by the local public against the Gas Tower at Puthuvype in Kochi; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government to the anxiety expressed against the security of the local population living there in thousands around the LNG Terminal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The Kochi-Koottanad-Bengaluru/Mangaluru natural gas pipeline (KKMBPL) is passing through the State